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7 January 1966
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director to Transfer Two Agency U-2 Aircraft to SAC

1. At the morning meeting on 7 January, Mr. Sheldon, who was in the chair, was called away to the telephone and on his return advised me that the Director had telephoned, stating that he had just received a call from Secretary Vance requesting that two Agency U-2 aircraft be loaned to SAC on a temporary basis to be utilized in North and South Vietnam.

2. Mr. Sheldon added that the Director had said that Mr. Vance had promised to send a memorandum over to CIA formalizing this request and indicating that the transfer of aircraft was to be on a loan basis, and further that any aircraft lost for any reason in this operation would be replaced in like kind from DOD assets. I briefly outlined to Mr. Sheldon the state of our present planning for this eventuality, and told him we would now proceed to draw up a plan to accomplish this requirement. I reminded Mr. Sheldon of the current shortage of engines in the Agency U-2 program as being a limiting factor on our ability to continue supporting SAC for the long term. I added that Col. Beerli at SAC had advised me that they expected to have their first operationally ready J-75 equipped U-2 in place in Saigon by 1 April of this year.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Director of Special Activities

cc: D/R/CIA

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